

By Charles Portis

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MIAMI, Fla.

The U. S. government pre-

pared yesterday to receive and care for an influx of prisoners released by Communist-dominated Cuba.

In Washington, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare said it was rushing to expedite health and immigration formalities for P. W.s if they are let out of Cuba and brought here by plane.

That was one of the few hard declarations made in a day of feverish activity here, in Washington and in Havana.

Mostly, it was a case of all-speed-ahead to care for anti-Castro Cubans seized by the regime of Fidel Castro after the fiasco of the invasion at the bay of Pigs in the spring of 1961.

In making haste, nearly all authorities concerned also tried to keep mum on what was going on in providing ransom for the captives.

At least 1,113 P. W.s are involved in the transfer of money or its \$62 million equivalent in medicine and food.

One big fact stood out in the security lid clamped on the vast scope of negotiations and transfer of men for money. That there'd be no such preparations to receive and treat so big a group if its conclusion were still some time in the future.

#### Hard Information

Here were some other hard bits of information that made the P. W. arrival seem imminent:

Edward Ahrens, Miami District Director of the U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, on how he plans to handle the incoming men. Plans are made but he's not going into detail. Maybe he will today.

Public Relations for Pan American Airways in Miami. The company is prepared to divert jets from the New York-San Juan run. No specific request has yet been made. It can be, though, in a twinkling and so can the re-routing of the jets.

"We'll bring them all out when we get the word," said the public relations man for Pan American.

How long would that take? A few hours, he guessed.

#### Donovan's Activities

In Miami Cuban exiles appeared most concerned with the state of negotiations involving James B. Donovan. He is the New York attorney and Democratic candidate for Senator there who negotiated with the Russians a spy swap

that involved Capt. Francis Gary Powers, U-2 pilot, whom the Russians turned over for their Col. Rudolf Abel, master Soviet spy in the U. S.

Until the exiles hear from Mr. Donovan, back in Havana, they are as much in the dark as any non-government agency. He flew from Havana to Miami Sunday night to confer with exiles. In between, he could also make a few "safe" telephone calls—meaning the line wouldn't be tapped if he telephoned Washington.

Abruptly, Mr. Donovan flew back to Havana only a few hours after he landed in Miami. He was, according to stories that began to circulate, about to see Premier Castro. Maybe, according to speculation, Castro was on the verge of approving a deal.

It sounded so in Havana where Mr. Donovan was doing his negotiating at the home of Mrs. Berta Barreto De Los Heros. She said:

"All went well, thank God!"

#### Room at Opa-Locka

If the prisoners are flown in fast—as seems likely—they probably will be landed at Opa-Locka Airport. That's 13 miles from the heart of town here. During World War II, it was a Naval training station. Afterwards, Miami Port Authority operated the area for private planes.

There's plenty of accommodation, however, available for a big influx of people at Opa-Locka, especially roomy barracks.

From the runway, the debarking ex-PWs could be ferried by bus to the barracks installations for on-the-spot medical checkups. Security could be clamped down easily. If the unfortunate men need medical treatment, they could be sped from the barracks buildings to private hospitals.

The arrangement at Opa-Locka is excellent from this point of view: Space, accessibility and security. All it needs is the men.

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